By the King.

THe Solemnities of our Coronation being now performed according to the vſages and cuſtomes of this our Realme of England, and with mutuall contentment, aſwell of Vs in the zeale and loue of our people at the performance thereof expreſſed, as of them in the expectation of our gouernment; We haue entred into conſideration of the ſtate of the ſeuerall parts of the body of our Realme, And therein do finde, that the abſence of the Noblemen and Gentlemen which are vſed to reſide there in ſeuerall quarters, is accompanied with great inconuenience, aſwell in the want of reliefe which the poorer ſort did receiue by their ordinary Hoſpitalitie, as alſo chiefly in the defect of Gouernment, whereby beſides other inconueniences, through lacke of order, the infection of the Plague ſpreadeth and ſcattereth it ſelfe into diuers places of the Realme, and is like further to increaſe, if by the preſence and care of ſuch as are in authority and credit amongſt our people, they be not contained in ſome good courſe, for the preuenting of that contagion.

Wherefore hauing taken order for the returning home into their Countreys of diuers of the Nobilitie of our Nation of Scotland, and others alſo, who to do Vs honour at our Coronation, haue attended here ſince the entring of Vs and the Queene our deare wife into this Kingdome: We haue thought good alſo to publiſh to all other good Subiects of this Realme, that our Pleaſure is, and we command that all ſuch as are not our Seruants in Ordinary, or be not bound to attendance about our Court by expreſſe commandement of Vs, or our Councell, ſhall immediatly depart home into their Countreys; Specially all Deputy Lieutenants, and all ſuch as are in Commiſſion of the Peace, there to attend their ſeuerall charges, chiefly to preuent by all good meanes the ſpreading of this Contagion of the Plague. For ſeeing now there is no neceſſary cauſe why any man ſhould abide either about our Citie of London, or about our Court, who is not our ordinary Seruant, We ſhal haue iuſt cauſe to be offended with ſuch, as ſhall contrary to this our Pleaſure, voluntarily abſent themſelues from the places where their duties do require they ſhould abide.

And whereas We are giuen to vnderſtand, That notwithſtanding our former Proclamation, there doe continually hang vpon our Court, a great number of idle and maſterleſſe perſons, aſwell Scottiſh as Engliſh, who can giue no accompt of their abode here: For preuenting hereof our Pleaſure is, That all Noblemen and Gentlemen our ordinary ſeruants or attendants in Court, ſhall preſently within three dayes after the publiſhing hereof, deliuer in to our Chamberlaine, to the Officers of our Greencloth, and to our Knight Marſhal, to each of them a Roll of the names of ſuch as be their ſeruants in ordinary, wherein We require them to haue care to reteine no more then they muſt needs bee ſerued with: With which Roll Wee haue giuen charge, that the ſayd Knight Marſhall ſhall continually ride, both in the day time and in the night about our Court, and whomſoeuer they ſhall finde not contained in the ſayde Roll, they ſhall puniſh according to the Lawes of our Realme, or otherwiſe as ſhall bee thought meete for ſuch contempts. And for that our pleaſure alſo is, during the time of this Infection, That our Court be not followed with vnneceſſary multitudes vnder pretence of Suites, We doe charge all Suitors to abſtaine from following of vs for this time, ſauing onely ſuch as haue Suits, or cauſe of attendance of our Councell for neceſſary ſeruices. For the diſcerning whereof, We haue appointed, that the Maſters of our Requeſts, or one of them, with one of the Clearkes of our Councell, or of our Signet, ſhal reſide at Kingſton till Wedneſday next, of purpoſe to receiue the Petitions of all ſuch as ſuppoſe they haue any neceſſary cauſe to attend for the ſeruice at the Court, and ſhall allowe ſuch as they ſhall ſee cauſe why for our ſeruice they ſhould be purſued, and all others deferre till the Winter: And after that day paſſed no Suitor ſhall be allowed to follow the Court, vpon what pretence ſoeuer, during this Contagion.

Giuen at our Honour of Hampton the nine and twentieth day of July 1603, in the firſt yeere of our Reigne of England, France and Ireland, and of Scotland the ſeuen and thirtieth.

God ſaue the King.

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